

Marion County recently held a celebration of its designation as a Purple Heart County that brought the community together to honor Purple Heart recipients. Showing our admiration for those who have served and sacrificed so much for our freedom is such a worthy endeavor, and this recognition is well-deserved.

On behalf of all Arkansans, I echo the sentiments of the citizens of Marion County in saying how grateful we are for our veterans and their willingness to serve their country. There truly is no greater display of service and sacrifice than that.

I would like to take this opportunity to applaud Marion County for publicly recognizing our veterans and Purple Heart recipients by becoming a Purple Heart County. Arkansas is proud that our local communities are paying respect to our veterans and standing behind them.●

#### TRIBUTE TO KEN GORMLEY

● Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the 13th president of Duquesne University, Ken Gormley, a renowned lawyer, scholar, teacher, and author. A native western Pennsylvanian, Ken has dedicated his life to public service and education. He was sworn in as president of Duquesne University on July 1, 2016, after serving as interim dean and dean of Duquesne's School of Law from 2008 until 2015. The inauguration of Duquesne University's 13th dean, and just its third lay dean, highlights the impact this 138-year-old institution has made on the city of Pittsburgh and its students, displaying a constant and deep commitment to Spiritan values and academic rigor. Founded in 1878 by the Congregation of the Holy Spirit to educate the children of immigrant steel mill workers, Duquesne now enrolls nearly 10,000 students from throughout the country and the world.

Ken first began his tenure at Duquesne in 1994 after a career in private practice and teaching at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, where he founded a successful legal writing program for minority students and women returning to professional school after raising their children. Under his leadership as dean of Duquesne's School of Law, the institution ascended to the top tier of law schools and has become nationally ranked. Ken's commitment to public service is deeply rooted in western Pennsylvania. From 1998–2001, he served as mayor of Forest Hills, PA, where he helped to establish a community development corporation to focus on the borough's business corridor. He has also served as the president of the Allegheny County Bar Association, where he helped establish the Gender Equality Institute to work to advance women in the legal profession.

Ken Gormley earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Pittsburgh and his J.D. from Harvard Law

School. He quickly earned a reputation as a leading constitutional scholar, writing for such esteemed publications as the Stanford Law Review, the Rutgers Law Journal, the Pennsylvania Lawyer, and Politico. He is an expert on the U.S. Supreme Court and has testified before the Pennsylvania Senate Judiciary Committee and here in the U.S. Senate. Ken is also an accomplished author, having penned the biography of Archibald Cox, one of the great constitutional lawyers of the 20th century, for whom he served as a teaching assistant at Harvard. The book was awarded the 1999 Bruce K. Gould Book Award for outstanding publication relating to the law and was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. Ken's most recent book, "The Presidents and the Constitution: A Living History," draws upon the Nation's top experts on the American Presidency and the U.S. Constitution to tell the incredibly important story of how each President has confronted and shaped the Constitution.

I am proud to rise today to honor Dean Ken Gormley and to recognize his wife, Laura, and their children Carolyn, Luke, Rebecca, and Madeleine. I thank Ken for his decades of service to Pennsylvania and this Nation and wish him luck for his significant work to come on behalf of Duquesne University.●

#### TRIBUTE TO MINNESOTA POLICE OFFICERS

● Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize three outstanding Minnesota police officers. The Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association, the largest association representing Minnesota's rank-and-file police officers, met earlier this year for their annual conference and named Officer Sayareth Toy Vixayvong of the St. Paul Police Department "Police Officer of the Year" and gave "Honorable Mention Awards" to Officer Tony Holter of the St. Paul Police Department and Detective Bryan Bye of the Burnsville Police Department.

Officer Vixayvong is a 15-year veteran of the St. Paul Police Department and, until recently, was assigned to the FBI Safe Streets Task Force, where he worked tirelessly to make St. Paul a safer place to live and work. Officer Vixayvong has spent his career fighting drug trafficking and has put numerous high-profile criminals behind bars and worked to prevent others from becoming involved in the illegal drug trade. Working undercover with the task force, he put his life on the line repeatedly to protect and serve his community of St. Paul.

St. Paul Police Officer Tony Holter is a dedicated member of the St. Paul Police Department. He has served for 15 years and is currently the senior investigator in the Ramsey County Violent Crime Enforcement Team. Throughout the past year, Officer Holter has served as the primary undercover officer in a

number of narcotic investigations focusing on members of international drug cartels and other dangerous drug dealers and gang members.

Since 2002, Burnsville Detective Bryan Bye has loyally served his community as a member of the Burnsville Police Department. His work with Burnsville's Emergency Action Group tactical team has earned him five distinguished service awards for his tactical response. In 2015, the Burnsville Police Department named Detective Bye "Police Officer of the Year."

I join with the Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association and all of my fellow Minnesotans in applauding these three distinguished public servants. I would also like to thank not only these three individuals, but all of Minnesota's brave law enforcement officers who work tirelessly to keep our communities safe from harm. They put their lives on the line to protect our safety and that of our families every day.●

#### HONOR FLIGHT NORTHERN COLORADO'S 16TH FLIGHT TO DC

● Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the veterans of Honor Flight Northern Colorado and the organization's 16th trip to Washington, DC. This group includes veterans from various wars and generations, who are all joined together by their service to our country.

In 2008, Honor Flight Northern Colorado was created as a local chapter of the National Honor Flight Network. The organization flies World War II veterans to Washington, DC, to allow these veterans the opportunity to see the national memorial built in their honor.

Honor Flight Northern Colorado now welcomes veterans of any war the chance to fly to Washington, DC, free of charge, to visit the memorials of the wars in which they fought.

Currently, there are more than 21.8 million veterans living in the United States. No matter the conflict, these veterans made exceptional sacrifices in order to serve and defend our country, and we owe them a debt of gratitude.

Of the 123 veterans on the most recent honor flight, 23 served in World War II, 53 served in Korea, 47 served in Vietnam, and 1 served in Iraq.

Please join me in honoring Robert Armstrong, Leonard Branecki, Richard Ciesielski, Lawrence Colby, John Davis, Melvin Engeman, Irene Hunter, Walter Hunter, Malachi Kenney, William Klun, Donald Kreutzer, Alfred Martin, Joseph Moren, Thomas Paterson, Stanley Raddatz, Raymond Rader, Gerald Ravenscroft, Harold Stoll, Douglas Stratton, Henry Tagtmeyer, Sidney Waldrop, Peter Zarlengo, Donald Ziemer, Louis Balogh, Donald Begalle, Robert Braden, Walter Brown, William Budd, Robert Burgess, Gerald Clinton, Thomas Dixon, Edward Dreher, Jim Ferguson, William Gaede, Ronald